

### Claims

1. A method for treating a T cell mediated autoimmune disorder comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an antagonist of a receptor on a surface of a T cell which mediates contact dependent helper effector functions.
2. A method of claim 1, wherein the T cell mediated autoimmune disorder is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, EAE, diabetes type I, oophoritis and thyroiditis.
3. A method of claim 1, wherein the T cell mediated autoimmune disorder is multiple sclerosis.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the receptor on the surface of the T cell which mediates contact-dependent helper effector function is gp39.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the antagonist is an anti-gp39 antibody.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is an anti-human gp39 antibody.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is produced by 89-76 hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB11713 or 24-31 hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB11712 or an antibody having the gp39 binding characteristics thereof.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a chimeric monoclonal antibody.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.
11. A method of treating multiple sclerosis comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-human gp39 antibody.